

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 130

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

WHEREAS, suicide is the ninth-leading cause of all deaths in Tennessee, the second-leading cause of death for adults aged 25-34, and the third-leading cause of death in young people aged 10-24; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 80,000 suicide attempts occur annually in Tennessee, claiming more than 800 lives; and

WHEREAS, the suicide rate per 100,000 persons is highest among adults over 65; and

WHEREAS, many experts believe that the reported figures are, in reality, very low and that many actual suicides are reported as accidents, because of the absence of a note stating the victim's intentions; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a complex, multifaceted biological, sociological, psychological, and societal problem; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention by keeping persons at risk of committing suicide from seeking life-saving help; in addition, the stigma associated with suicide deaths seriously inhibits surviving family members from regaining meaningful lives; and

WHEREAS, many suicides are currently preventable, and there is an urgent need for the development of more effective suicide prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) was established in 2001 by an alliance of public health experts and suicide prevention advocates, many of them survivors of suicide and suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, TSPN is active in all regions of the State, working closely with public and private agencies, including state departments, to coordinate awareness and educational projects for the general public; and

WHEREAS, TSPN's Advisory Council is appointed by the Governor to implement the points outlined in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, as developed by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General; and

WHEREAS, TSPN and other laudable organizations, such as the Jason Foundation, are dedicated to fighting teen and adult suicides through seminars, direct personal contact with family members, support groups for survivors of suicide victims, intervention, and promoting awareness/prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, TSPN is observing its 10th Anniversary Symposium this year; and

WHEREAS, advocacy groups, concerned citizens, and policymakers from across the State will participate in a 10th Anniversary Symposium, scheduled for April 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, such an impassioned, well-organized and motivated grassroots effort designed to combat a major cause of the loss of loved ones throughout our State is deserving of our recognition, gratitude, and support; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly recognize the life-saving efforts of TSPN and its members, while also promoting awareness of and expressing our support for suicide prevention awareness; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network for ten years of laudable service to this State and encourage all Tennesseans to educate themselves about suicide prevention techniques.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.